Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. **(currently amended)** An isolated polypeptide having an amino acid sequence at least 80 % identical to an amino acid sequence as set forth in ~~a sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NOS: 2, 4, 6, and 8~~ SEQ ID NO:2 over a region at least 40 amino acids in length when compared using the BLASTP algorithm with a wordlength (W) of 3, and the BLOSUM62 scoring matrix.

2. **(currently amended)** The isolated polypeptide of claim 1, ~~selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NOS: 2, 4, 6, and 8~~ wherein the sequence is 100% identical to SEQ ID NO:2.

3. **(currently amended)** The isolated polypeptide of claim 1 that specifically binds to an antibody that specifically binds to a polypeptide of SEQ ID NO:2 ~~a polypeptide selected from the group consisting of SEQ. ID NOS: 2, 4, 6, and 8~~.

4. **(currently amended)** An isolated nucleic acid having a sequence that is at least 80 % identical to a polynucleotide having ~~a sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NO: 1, 3, 5, and 7~~ SEQ ID NO:1 over a region of at least 100 nucleotides in length when compared using the BLASTN algorithm with a wordlength (W) of 11, M=5, and N= -4.

5. **(currently amended)** The isolated nucleic acid of claim 4 that hybridizes to ~~a sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NOS: 1, 3, 5, and 7~~ SEQ ID NO:1 under conditions of high stringency including 50% formamide, 5X SSC, 5X Denhardt's solution, 10 mM sodium phosphate, pH 6.5, 100 µg/ml salmon sperm DNA and at 42° C.

6. **(currently amended)** The isolated nucleic acid of claim 1 having ~~a~~ the polynucleotide sequence ~~selected from the group consisting~~ of ~~SEQ. ID NOS: 1, 3, 5, and 7~~ SEQ ID NO:1.

7. **(original)** A vector comprising the isolated nucleic acid of claim 4 operably linked to a heterologous promoter.

8. **(original)** A method of screening whether an agent, conjugate or conjugate moiety is a substrate of a transporter, comprising:

providing a cell expressing a nucleic acid as defined by claim 4 to produce a transporter encoded by the nucleic acid in an outermembrane of the cell;

contacting the cell with an agent, conjugate moiety or conjugate; and determining whether the agent, conjugate moiety or conjugate passes through the transporter.

9. **(currently amended)** The method of claim 7, wherein the transporter encoded by the nucleic acid has the sequence of SEQ. ID NO: 2.

10. **(original)** The method of claim 9, wherein the cell is a Chinese hamster ovary cell, a human embryonic kidney cell or an oocyte.

11. **(withdrawn and currently amended)** A method of screening whether an agent, conjugate or conjugate moiety binds to a transporter, comprising;

contacting a transporter having a sequence as defined in claim 1 with an agent, conjugate or conjugate moiety;

detecting presence or absence of binding between the agent , conjugate or conjugate moiety and the transporter.

12. **(withdrawn and currently amended)** The method of claim 11, wherein the transporter encoded by the nucleic acid has the sequence of SEQ. ID NO: 2.

13. **(cancelled)**

14. **(withdrawn)** A method of manufacturing a pharmaceutical composition, comprising;

linking an agent to a conjugate moiety to form a conjugate wherein the conjugate is transported by a transporter as defined by claim 1 with a higher Vmax than the agent alone;

formulating the conjugate with a carrier as a pharmaceutical composition.

15. **(withdrawn)** A method of treatment comprising;

administering to a patient a conjugate comprising an agent linked to a conjugate moiety wherein the conjugate is transported by a transporter as defined by claim 1 with a higher Vmax than the agent alone.

16. **(withdrawn and currently amended)** The method of claim ~~12~~15, wherein the conjugate is administered orally to the patient.

17. **(withdrawn and currently amended)** The method of claim ~~12~~15, wherein the conjugate is administered intravenously to the patient.

18.-21. **(cancelled)**

22. **(currently amended)** A method of screening agents, conjugates or conjugate moieties for capacity to be substrates for a transporter, ~~comprsing~~ comprising providing a cell expressing a transporter comprising ~~an~~ the amino acid sequence ~~selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NOS: 2, 4, 6 and 8~~ SEQ ID NO:2, the transporter being situated in the plasma membrane of the cell;

contacting the cell with an agent, conjugate or conjugate moiety; and determining whether the agent, conjugate or conjugate moiety passes through the plasma membrane via the transporter.

23. **(withdrawn and currently amended)** A method of screening agents, conjugates or conjugate moieties for capacity to agonize or antagonize a transporter, comprising

contacting a cell expressing a transporter comprising ~~an~~ the amino acid sequence ~~selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NOS: 2, 4, 6 and 8~~ SEQ ID NO:2, the transporter being situated in the plasma membrane of the cell; with an agent, conjugate or conjugate moiety and a known substrate of the transporter;

determining whether the agent agonizes or antagonizes uptake of the known substrate into the cell in comparison with a control cell expressing the transporter contacted with known substrate without the agent, conjugate or conjugate moiety.

24. **(withdrawn)** The method of claim 23, wherein the known substrate is taurocholate or estrone-3-sulfate.

25.-28. **(cancelled)**